	Services at St	John the Baptist Halling and the Jubilee Hal	ll Upper Halling		
HALLING	2 nd December	8.00 Holy Communion	Romans 13 vv 8-14 p1140		
	Advent Sunday	Jubilee Hall	Matthew 21 vv 1-13 p988		
	YEAR C	11.00 Holy Communion	Jeremiah 33 vv 14-16 p796		
	Gift Service		I Thessalonians 3 vv 9-13 p1187		
			Luke 21 vv 25-36 p1057		
9 th December		11.00 Holy Communion	Malachi 3 vv 1-4 p961		
Advent 2			Philippians 1 vv 1-11 p1178		
			Luke 3 vv 1-6 p1029		
		5.30 Evening Prayer	Isaiah 11 vv 1-10 p696		
		Jubilee Hall	John 17 vv 1-26 p1085		
16 th December		11.00 Holy Communion	Zephaniah 3 vv 14-20 p947		
Advent 3			Philippians 4 vv 4-7 p1181		
			Luke 3 vv 7-18 p1029		
23 rd December		11.00 Holy Communion	Micah 5 vv 2-5a p933		
Advent 4			Hebrews 10 vv 5-10 p1207		
			Luke 1 vv 39-45 p1026		
		3.00 Crib, Carol & Christingle Service			
25 th December		8.00 Holy Communion	Hebrews 1 vv 1-12 p1201		
Christmas Day			John 1 vv 1-14 p1063		
30 th December		11.00 Holy Communion	I Samuel 2 vv 18-26 p273		
Christmas 1			Colossians 3 vv 12-17 p1184		
Chiribinius 1			Luke 2 vv 41-52 p1029		
6 th January		8.00 Holy Communion	Ephesians 3 vv 1-12 p1174		
Epiphany		Jubilee Hall	Matthew 2 vv 1-12 p966		
Lpipitally		11.00 Holy Communion	Isaiah 60 vv 1-6 p746		
		11.00 Hory Communion	Ephesians 3 vv 1-12 p1174		
			Matthew 2 vv 1-12 p966		
13 th January	Baptism of Christ	11.00 Holy Communion	Isaiah 43 vv 1-7 p728		
15 January	Daptishi of Chirist	11.00 Hory Communion	Acts 8 vv 14-17 p1101		
			Luke 3 vv 15-22 p1029		
	Epiphany 2	5.30 Evening Prayer	Isaiah 57 vv 1-21 p743		
	Epipitany 2	Jubilee Hall	Acts 8 vv 5-25 p1101		
20 th January		11.00 Holy Communion	Isaiah 62 vv 1-5 p748		
Epiphany 2		11.00 Hory Communion	I Corinthians 12 vv 1-11 p1153		
Epipitally 2			John 2 vv 1-11 p1064		
			John 2 VV 1-11 p1004		
27 th January		11.00 Holy Communion	- -		
27 th January		11.00 Holy Communion	Nehemiah 8 vv 1-10 p492		
27 th January Epiphany 3		11.00 Holy Communion	Nehemiah 8 vv 1-10 p492 I Corinthians 12 vv 12-31 p1153		
			Nehemiah 8 vv 1-10 p492 I Corinthians 12 vv 12-31 p1153 Luke 4 vv 14-21 p1031		
Epiphany 3		Services at St Michael & All Angels Cuxto	Nehemiah 8 vv 1-10 p492 I Corinthians 12 vv 12-31 p1153 Luke 4 vv 14-21 p1031 n		
Epiphany 3 2nd December	AR C		Nehemiah 8 vv 1-10 p492 I Corinthians 12 vv 12-31 p1153 Luke 4 vv 14-21 p1031 n Jeremiah 33 vv 14-16 p796		
Epiphany 3 2nd December Advent Sunday YEA	AR C	Services at St Michael & All Angels Cuxto	Nehemiah 8 vv 1-10 p492 I Corinthians 12 vv 12-31 p1153 Luke 4 vv 14-21 p1031 n		
Epiphany 3 2nd December Advent Sunday YEA Gift Service	AR C	Services at St Michael & All Angels Cuxto 9.30 Family Communion	Nehemiah 8 vv 1-10 p492 I Corinthians 12 vv 12-31 p1153 Luke 4 vv 14-21 p1031 n Jeremiah 33 vv 14-16 p796 Luke 21 vv 25-36 p1057		
Epiphany 3 2nd December Advent Sunday YEA Gift Service 9th December	AR C	Services at St Michael & All Angels Cuxto	Nehemiah 8 vv 1-10 p492 I Corinthians 12 vv 12-31 p1153 Luke 4 vv 14-21 p1031 n Jeremiah 33 vv 14-16 p796 Luke 21 vv 25-36 p1057 Malachi 3 vv 1-4 p961		
Epiphany 3 2nd December Advent Sunday YEA Gift Service	AR C	Services at St Michael & All Angels Cuxto 9.30 Family Communion	Nehemiah 8 vv 1-10 p492 I Corinthians 12 vv 12-31 p1153 Luke 4 vv 14-21 p1031 n Jeremiah 33 vv 14-16 p796 Luke 21 vv 25-36 p1057 Malachi 3 vv 1-4 p961 Philippians 1 vv 1-11 p1178		
Epiphany 3 2nd December Advent Sunday YEA Gift Service 9th December Advent 2	AR C	Services at St Michael & All Angels Cuxto 9.30 Family Communion 9.30 Holy Communion	Nehemiah 8 vv 1-10 p492 I Corinthians 12 vv 12-31 p1153 Luke 4 vv 14-21 p1031 n Jeremiah 33 vv 14-16 p796 Luke 21 vv 25-36 p1057 Malachi 3 vv 1-4 p961 Philippians 1 vv 1-11 p1178 Luke 3 vv 1-6 p1029		
Epiphany 3 2nd December Advent Sunday YEA Gift Service 9th December Advent 2 16 th December	AR C	Services at St Michael & All Angels Cuxto 9.30 Family Communion 9.30 Holy Communion 8.00 Holy Communion	Nehemiah 8 vv 1-10 p492 I Corinthians 12 vv 12-31 p1153 Luke 4 vv 14-21 p1031 n Jeremiah 33 vv 14-16 p796 Luke 21 vv 25-36 p1057 Malachi 3 vv 1-4 p961 Philippians 1 vv 1-11 p1178 Luke 3 vv 1-6 p1029 Epistle & Gospel BCP		
Epiphany 3 2nd December Advent Sunday YEA Gift Service 9th December Advent 2	AR C	Services at St Michael & All Angels Cuxto 9.30 Family Communion 9.30 Holy Communion	Nehemiah 8 vv 1-10 p492 I Corinthians 12 vv 12-31 p1153 Luke 4 vv 14-21 p1031 n Jeremiah 33 vv 14-16 p796 Luke 21 vv 25-36 p1057 Malachi 3 vv 1-4 p961 Philippians 1 vv 1-11 p1178 Luke 3 vv 1-6 p1029 Epistle & Gospel BCP Zephaniah 3 vv 14-20 p947		
Epiphany 3 2nd December Advent Sunday YEA Gift Service 9th December Advent 2 16 th December	AR C	Services at St Michael & All Angels Cuxto 9.30 Family Communion 9.30 Holy Communion 8.00 Holy Communion	Nehemiah 8 vv 1-10 p492 I Corinthians 12 vv 12-31 p1153 Luke 4 vv 14-21 p1031 n Jeremiah 33 vv 14-16 p796 Luke 21 vv 25-36 p1057 Malachi 3 vv 1-4 p961 Philippians 1 vv 1-11 p1178 Luke 3 vv 1-6 p1029 Epistle & Gospel BCP Zephaniah 3 vv 14-20 p947 Philippians 4 vv 4-7 p1181		
Epiphany 3 2nd December Advent Sunday YEA Gift Service 9th December Advent 2 16 th December	AR C	Services at St Michael & All Angels Cuxto 9.30 Family Communion 9.30 Holy Communion 8.00 Holy Communion	Nehemiah 8 vv 1-10 p492 I Corinthians 12 vv 12-31 p1153 Luke 4 vv 14-21 p1031 n Jeremiah 33 vv 14-16 p796 Luke 21 vv 25-36 p1057 Malachi 3 vv 1-4 p961 Philippians 1 vv 1-11 p1178 Luke 3 vv 1-6 p1029 Epistle & Gospel BCP Zephaniah 3 vv 14-20 p947		
Epiphany 3 2nd December Advent Sunday YEA Gift Service 9th December Advent 2 16 th December Advent 3 17 th December	AR C	Services at St Michael & All Angels Cuxto 9.30 Family Communion 9.30 Holy Communion 8.00 Holy Communion	Nehemiah 8 vv 1-10 p492 I Corinthians 12 vv 12-31 p1153 Luke 4 vv 14-21 p1031 n Jeremiah 33 vv 14-16 p796 Luke 21 vv 25-36 p1057 Malachi 3 vv 1-4 p961 Philippians 1 vv 1-11 p1178 Luke 3 vv 1-6 p1029 Epistle & Gospel BCP Zephaniah 3 vv 14-20 p947 Philippians 4 vv 4-7 p1181		
Epiphany 3 2nd December Advent Sunday YEA Gift Service 9th December Advent 2 16 th December Advent 3	AR C	Services at St Michael & All Angels Cuxto 9.30 Family Communion 9.30 Holy Communion 8.00 Holy Communion 9.30 Holy Communion	Nehemiah 8 vv 1-10 p492 I Corinthians 12 vv 12-31 p1153 Luke 4 vv 14-21 p1031 n Jeremiah 33 vv 14-16 p796 Luke 21 vv 25-36 p1057 Malachi 3 vv 1-4 p961 Philippians 1 vv 1-11 p1178 Luke 3 vv 1-6 p1029 Epistle & Gospel BCP Zephaniah 3 vv 14-20 p947 Philippians 4 vv 4-7 p1181 Luke 3 vv 7-18 p1029 tba		
Epiphany 3 2nd December Advent Sunday YEA Gift Service 9th December Advent 2 16 th December Advent 3 17 th December 23 rd December	AR C	Services at St Michael & All Angels Cuxto 9.30 Family Communion 9.30 Holy Communion 8.00 Holy Communion 9.30 Holy Communion 7.00 pm Scout & Guide Carol Service	Nehemiah 8 vv 1-10 p492 I Corinthians 12 vv 12-31 p1153 Luke 4 vv 14-21 p1031 n Jeremiah 33 vv 14-16 p796 Luke 21 vv 25-36 p1057 Malachi 3 vv 1-4 p961 Philippians 1 vv 1-11 p1178 Luke 3 vv 1-6 p1029 Epistle & Gospel BCP Zephaniah 3 vv 14-20 p947 Philippians 4 vv 4-7 p1181 Luke 3 vv 7-18 p1029 tba Micah 5 vv 2-5a p933		
Epiphany 3 2nd December Advent Sunday YEA Gift Service 9th December Advent 2 16 th December Advent 3 17 th December	AR C	Services at St Michael & All Angels Cuxto 9.30 Family Communion 9.30 Holy Communion 8.00 Holy Communion 9.30 Holy Communion 7.00 pm Scout & Guide Carol Service	Nehemiah 8 vv 1-10 p492 I Corinthians 12 vv 12-31 p1153 Luke 4 vv 14-21 p1031 n Jeremiah 33 vv 14-16 p796 Luke 21 vv 25-36 p1057 Malachi 3 vv 1-4 p961 Philippians 1 vv 1-11 p1178 Luke 3 vv 1-6 p1029 Epistle & Gospel BCP Zephaniah 3 vv 14-20 p947 Philippians 4 vv 4-7 p1181 Luke 3 vv 7-18 p1029 tba		
Epiphany 3 2nd December Advent Sunday YEA Gift Service 9th December Advent 2 16 th December Advent 3 17 th December 23 rd December	AR C	Services at St Michael & All Angels Cuxto 9.30 Family Communion 9.30 Holy Communion 8.00 Holy Communion 9.30 Holy Communion 7.00 pm Scout & Guide Carol Service	Nehemiah 8 vv 1-10 p492 I Corinthians 12 vv 12-31 p1153 Luke 4 vv 14-21 p1031 n Jeremiah 33 vv 14-16 p796 Luke 21 vv 25-36 p1057 Malachi 3 vv 1-4 p961 Philippians 1 vv 1-11 p1178 Luke 3 vv 1-6 p1029 Epistle & Gospel BCP Zephaniah 3 vv 14-20 p947 Philippians 4 vv 4-7 p1181 Luke 3 vv 7-18 p1029 tba Micah 5 vv 2-5a p933 Hebrews 10 vv 5-10 p1207		

CUXTON	24 th December Christmas Eve	5.00 Christingle, Na Service	tivity Play & Crib			
	Chilistinas Eve	11.00 Midnight Mas	20	Isaiah 52 vv 7-10 p739		
		11.00 Minulight Mas	00		1 vv 1-12 p1201	
					1-14 p1063	
25 th December		0.30 Holy Commun	ion			
Christmas Day			9.30 Holy Communion		Isaiah 9 vv 2-7 p693 Luke 2 vv 1-20 p1027	
30 th December			9.30 Holy Communion		I Samuel 2 vv 18-26 p273	
Christmas 1			9.30 Holy Communion		Colossians 3 vv 12-17 p1184	
Chiristinas I					41-52 p1029	
6 th January		9.30 Family Commu	mion			
Epiphany		9.30 Family Communion		Isaiah 60 vv 1-6 p746 Matthew 2 vv 1-12 p966		
13 th January		9.30 Holy Commun	ion			
Baptism of Christ		9.50 Hory Commun	1011	Isaiah 43 vv 1-7 p728 Acts 8 vv 14-17 p1101		
Daptishi of Chirist					14-17 p1101 15-22 p1029	
20 th January		8.00 Holy Commun	ion			
Epiphany 2		9.30 Holy Communion		Epistle & Gospel BCP Isaiah 62 vv 1-5 p748		
Epipitally 2		9.50 Hory Commun	9.30 Holy Communion		I Corinthians 12 vv 1-11 p1153	
					1-11 p1064	
27 th January		9.30 Holy Commun	ion		1 8 vv 1-10 p492	
Epiphany 3			9.50 Hory Communion		I Corinthians 12 vv 12-31 p1153	
Epipitally 5						
2 nd February		5.00 pm Folk Mass, Refreshments, Folk		Luke 4 vv 14-21 p1031 Malachi 3 v vv 1-5 p961		
Candlemas		Concert.		Luke 2 vv 22-40 p1028		
Holy Communion Cuxton Wedn				nmunion Halling Thursdays 9.30		
5 th December	Isaiah 25		6 th December		Isaiah 26 vv 1-6	
5 December		15 vv 29-37	0 December		Matthew 7 vv 21-27	
12 th December	Isaiah 40		13 th December		Isaiah 41 vv 13-20	
Ember Day	iourun io	11 vv 28-30	S Lucy		Matthew 11 vv 11-15	
19 th December			20 th December		Isaiah 7 vv 10-14	
1) December	Luke 1 v		20 December		Luke 1 vv 26-38	
26 th December	Acts 7 vv		27 th December		I John 1 vv 1-10	
S Stephen		23 vv 34-39	S John the Evangelist		John 21 vv 19-25	
2 nd January I John 2 v			3 rd January		I John 2 v29 – 3 v6	
2 January	John 1 vv	-	5 January		John 1 vv 29-34	
9 th January	I John 4 y		10 th January		I John v19 – 5 v4	
y sundary	Mark 6 v		William Laud (1645		Luke 4 vv 14-22	
		2 vv 14-18	17 th January		Hebrews 3 vy 7-14	
10 Junuary	Mark 1 v		S Anthony of Egypt		Mark 1 vv 40-45	
23 rd January		7 vv 1-17	24 th January		Hebrews 7 $v25 - 8 v6$	
2.5 Sundary	Mark 3 v		S Francis de Sales		Mark 3 vv 7-12	
30 th January		10 vv 11-18	31 st January		Hebrews 10 vv 19-25	
Charles King & Marty			ci bulloury		Mark 4 vv 21-25	
Charles King & Marty	I (10+9) Iviaik 4 V	v 1-20			1V1a1K + VV 21-23	

Holy Communion will also be celebrated at Cuxton 28th December at 7.30 am, 29th at 8.00 am, 1st and 25th January at 7.30 am. The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity runs from 18th January.



The Most Popular Christmas Wine

The most popular Christmas whine is *Do we have to eat the brussels?* We ran out of our usual communion wine in church and we didn't at all like our first attempts to replace it. Sour is perhaps the best word to describe it. It occurred to me that it was like drinking medicine but that led to rather holier thoughts. Holy Communion has been described as medicine for the soul. When we receive Holy Communion, we receive Jesus. Jesus comes to us in the bread and wine. The essence of our Christmas celebration is Jesus coming to us. He is born in Bethlehem and laid in the manger. Jesus is God with us. One of the titles of Jesus is Christ the Healer. Many of His miracles are healing miracles. In every generation, we pray to Jesus, or to God through Jesus, for the healing of all our diseases of body, mind and spirit.

Jesus heals our relationships. First and foremost, He heals our relationship with God. What destroys our relationship with God is our lack of love, but God consistently loves us and He sends His Son into the world to repair our relationship with Him. Jesus gives Himself in perfect love so that we might be set free to love perfectly, to offer up our own lives as a perfect sacrifice of love.

All other healings follow from the healing of our relationship with God. If our relationship with God is right, it follows that our relationships with other people will be right. Other people are God's children too. Our relationship with the world in which we live will be right if we are at peace with God because the world is God's creation. We shall be at peace with ourselves if our relationship with God is right, because we were made to be



like Him.

Many, if not all, the troubles and sorrows that there are in the world are the consequence of the breakdown of the relationship between humanity and God. Jesus heals that relationship. If we accept Him into our lives in faith and follow Him in love, we have in our hands the answer to all the world's problems. Christ is our hope, our only hope, our hope for ourselves and for the whole of Creation. Christ the Healer.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, Roger.

O holy Child of Bethlehem Descend to us, we pray Cast out our sin and enter in Be born in us today.

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY NEWS

Children's Society Once again, I would like to thank all of our Children's Society boxholders for their generosity over the past year. This year's collection raised a grand total of £378.92, which is brilliant. It also exceeds the totals for the previous two years, so

we are on the up again! The boxes contained quite a few of the old pound coins which the bank was prepared to take, so they were not wasted. Thanks also to Sue Cockburn for her help in counting the money and to the Co-op for very kindly exchanging the coins for notes. If anyone else would like to join us in raising money for this very worthy cause, please contact me on 727424. Julia Wells



Volunteers Needed

January March 2019 Do you have a heart for the homeless and a couple of hours a week or fortnight to spare? The Medway Night Shelter, which offers a hot meal, care and conversation and bed and breakfast to a group of twelve homeless people each night in the winter months, is due to



Valuing lives this winter

run from January 2nd to March 31st at a church/venue near you. We need breakfast volunteers 6.00 am to 8.00 am, lead cooks 6.00 pm to 9.00 pm, evening volunteers (cook & set up) 6.00 pm to 9.00 pm, overnight sleepers 7.00 pm to 8.00 am, van/minibus drivers 7.30 am to 9.00 am, registration team 2.00pm to 4.00 pm Monday to Friday only.

Training is mandatory - only one session needed

New Volunteer Training dates

7-9.30pm: 11th Dec & 18th Dec at St Barnabas ME7 4ST Sat 8th Dec 9.30-12 at Holy Trinity, Twydall ME8 6JU

Interested? Email Belinda at medwayshelter@gmail.com or check out our website http://medwayshelter.org

Question & Observation

Why are Norwegian warships bar coded? So that the port authorities can scan de navy in!

A man attended a wedding in Berkshire. On seeing the order of service, he expressed his disgust with the local football team. It said: Reading 1 Corinthians 13.

Scotney Castle

A fifty minute drive, from Cuxton, takes me to Lamberhurst and the National Trust property, Scotney Castle. On arrival there is a cafe, just beyond the car park, which gives me the opportunity to read the history and take in the views whilst partaking of my usual refreshment, latte and a cheese scone. Scotney is not one but two properties. Close to the entrance, at the top of the hill, is the 'new' house, built in 1837, for the Hussey family. At the bottom of the valley is the romantic ruins of a medieval castle and moat.



My Scotney experience begins at the top of the hill at the house. It is built from sandstone which was quarried from the grounds of the old castle. It was positioned to overlook the old

castle, gardens and estate. There are fabulous views from the windows in many rooms and from the patio at the rear. The rooms in the house are crammed with paintings, textiles, furniture and books. It is clear that the owner loved books and developed an extensive library. One of the paintings particularly caught my eye. It is in a dark but beautiful dining room. This oil painting is by Faustino Bocchi and is entitled, 'Dwarves gorging on melons, and a shipwreck'. There



are information sheets for each room as well as helpful and knowledgeable volunteer guides on hand to answer any questions.

After exploring the house I wander outside. First, I walk around the outside of the house and admire

the stature of the building, then turn to admire the gardens leading down to the old castle and moat. Immediately I discover the Quarry Garden with its narrow trails amongst closely packed borders. The footpaths lead down passed borders for rhododendrons, azaleas and kalmia. Sadly, there are



no flowers at this time of year but something for next May/June.

At the most easterly point of the paths is the Ice House. This is a Grade 2 listed building, built in 1841 and was designed to suit the picturesque style of the garden. Ice houses were fashionable during the late eighteenth century. Ice was collected during the winter months from a nearby water source (the moat) and stored in the brick built chamber which was lined with straw. Amazingly the ice could be stored for up to a year. This ice house was re-thatched in 2012.



At the bottom of the valley is the old castle, moat and boat house. There are beautiful flower borders in this area as well as benches to allow me to sit and admire the birds, busy dragon flies and shoals of fish in the moat. The old castle is a popular wedding venue. At





with clay sculpted figures of hop pickers and their families. There are other art pieces, themed around hop picking, in the grounds.

the far side of the moat from

the boat house is a plinth

Looking up from the castle and moat, I can see so many fabulous trees. Some are very tall, eg. Giant Redwoods, there are colourful Sycamores and old Oak trees to name but a few. Hidden near the West Glade is the children's

play area. It encompasses various types of climbing, walking, swinging and sliding activities. Moving up hill, from the play area, I reach the Discovery Room. This room houses an excellent second hand book shop. There is an enormous range of books, all carefully arranged on shelves and labelled to aid access. I wander back towards the car park and find the walled garden and dipping pool. The walled garden is a relaxing place with well tended flower borders, vegetable plots, fruit trees, herbs and fruit bushes. There are fortnightly talks given to help visitors improve their knowledge on growing fruit and vegetables. Produce from the garden is used in the restaurant and the excess is sold to the public.

A great deal to see and enjoy at Scotney Castle. My next visit may focus on the lovely estate walks. I may well wait for warmer days.

Holly Croft.

For feare is nothing else, but a betraying of the succours which reason offereth. (Wisdom 17¹²).

From the Registers

Baptisms: 21 st October 21 st October	Alexis Magdalena Wilcox Harry James Bird	Hayley Close Jackdaw Way	
Weddings: 8 th September 3 rd November	Robert Gary Martin & Shelley Anne Barber James William Stubbing & Amy O' Donohoe	Snodland Burgess Hill	
<u>Funerals:</u> 19 th October 8 th November	Nellie Brockwell (95) Michael David Ryan (78)	James Road Pilgrims Way	

Cuxton & Halling Mothers' Union

At our Mothers' Union Meeting on Wednesday, 17th October, we enjoyed a www.themothersunion.org visit from our Diocesan Vice President for Rochester. Anne Williams and our Unit Co-ordinator for Action & Outreach, Wendy Swattridge. Wendy

gave a wonderful presentation on the work of the Mothers' Union overseas and in particular in the African countries. The MU work in these countries is hands on and certainly makes a difference to the livelihood of the communities we are helping. Our members were so impressed by Wendy's talk that they have asked for her to come again!

Our December M.U. Meeting will have a Christmas theme with Dawn leading the music. This will be followed by lunch in the "White Hart". Everyone is welcome to join us. Just let me know. Jenny.

Future Date:

mothers

union

Christian care for families worldwide

World Day of Prayer in 2019 will be on Friday, 1st March at 10.00 a.m. in St. John's Church, Halling.

St John's Draw: £5 each to Mr Stevie Head (8), Miss Laure Thorne (24), Mrs G Feraday (84) & Mrs M Cheeseman (134) – drawn by Mrs Mattingly.

St Michael's Draw: £10 to Mr M McCabe (8), £5 each to Mr J MacDonald (26) & Mrs E Maisey (34).

Forthcoming Attractions

1st December: Church Christmas Fayre at 10.00 am in the Scout Hall. 2nd February 2019: 5.00 pm Folk Mass for Candlemas pm at St Michael's followed by refreshments and folk Music.

Prayer Group Halling

For details, please contact Rev'd Ruth Bierbaum on 01622 722180.

House Group Cuxton

We meet at the church hall at 10.45 on the first Wednesday of each month to pray together and to discuss the things which concern us in the light of our faith. All welcome. At the December meeting, we are discussing mission.

CHRISTMAS FAYRE - 1St DECEMBER 10.00 AM - SCOUT HALL

COME AND ENJOY ALL OUR TRADTIONAL ATTRACTIONS AND MORE IN THIS NEW AND MORE CONVENIENT VENUE. THIS YEAR, GET READY FOR CHRISTMAS IN STYLE!



Carols in Cuxton

1st December 6.30 pm Cuxton Library Christmas Tree Lights Seasonal Refreshments.

Further on Flying Boats

Last month's magazine included memories of the Mercury and Maia taking off from the Shorts Works at Rochester and coming up river towards Cuxton. They then turned and performed their take off run down towards Rochester bridge, sometimes dousing traffic on the bridge with the water shed by the hull as it swept up into the air. Great fun if it happened to the school bus you were on, I'm told.

The Problem with Preaching

Preaching the Gospel is one of my most important duties. The others are teaching the faith, which isn't quite the same thing, celebrating the Sacraments and all the other aspects of public worship, praying for and with the community, offering pastoral care to the whole parish (not just to those who are members of the Church), sharing my personal faith with all people, and playing my part in the Church's mission to enable this community to be fulfilled in its vocation and take its proper place as part of the Kingdom of God. In other words, my duties are the duties of the Church and therefore of all the people who call themselves Christians. Oh, and there is also administration which has to be got through and then there are meetings, but I'm so utterly useless at them that I'll leave that subject on one side for now.

I remember once, when I was still a student, talking about preaching in a pub (I think it was the "Fox on the Hill", Denmark Hill). One of the other young men in training for the ministry was wondering how we would think of something to say every Sunday. I said there was no shortage of material. There is the whole of the bible to talk about, especially the lessons appointed for the particular day. One can explain and draw attention to the wonderful words in the services we use. Then there are contemporary events, the things going on in the lives of our hearers, the local community and the world in general. There is plenty to say

and some people might say that the problem with my preaching is that I say too much. Yes, length is a factor. Talk too long and you lose people's attention. Take too much time for the sermon and the service is unbalanced. Everything else – prayer, music, bible readings, confession & absolution, praise, thanksgiving, even Holy Communion itself – get squeezed or, in some churches, get made to serve the sermon. On the other hand, it does take time to proclaim the Word of God, to explain the Scriptures and to discuss the issues in the world and in our personal lives which we seek to understand in the light of the eternal Gospel. If you can sit through eighty minutes of double Maths, I think it is unreasonable to expect the preacher to expound the Word of God in less than eight minutes!

Because that is the issue. The preacher's task is to expound the Word of God. Through the preacher, God speaks to His people, to you and me, to the local Church and to the wider community, to this nation and to the whole world. The preacher has to be open to God's Word and to resist the temptation to use the pulpit to advance his own ideas or agenda. Personally, I have strong views about a lot of things which I hope are not incompatible with my Christian faith, but the pulpit is not the place to promote them. We are seeking the Word of God together. The Word is not only what the speaker says. It is also what is received by the congregation. Both are required to approach their task prayerfully and biblically. Come seeking the Word of God, expecting to hear the Word of God. If you think the preacher has gone astray, you can say so courteously and in a spirit of love. We can and should always search the Scriptures to see whether these things be so.

Generally speaking, the preacher may and should deal with issues such as justice, mercy and peace and seek to apply them in the details of our every day lives and in affairs of state. What he has to be careful not to do is to advance his own ideas about things which, good as he may think they are, are not necessarily what God is saying to us.

Another problem is examples. Most people like examples of what you mean when you're talking to them. They also like illustrations and even (sometimes) jokes. One temptation preachers have to avoid is when they are so keen to use a good illustration or a joke that they contrive a sermon round it, rather than feeling moved by God to preach on a particular topic and then looking for the apt illustration. Another problem is if you choose examples from people you know and everybody else knows. That is just unfair, but, then, if you don't talk about the real needs of the actual people who are present, what is the relevance of the sermon to your hearers? It is also a minefield if the preacher uses himself as an example. It is boastful if he talks about what he thinks are his virtues. It can be embarrassing and self-regarding if he talks about his own sins and weaknesses.

But the biggest problem with preaching is that you have to live up to the Gospel you preach. I know I fail on that score. I can just imagine people saying, "He tells us that we should do this, that and the other, but he's not so marvellous himself." But then is it really that you need a preacher who lives a perfect Christian life? Isn't it more important to have an honest preacher who is just like any other Christian, totally reliant on Jesus for the forgiveness of his own failures and on the grace of the Holy Spirit for enabling him to grow up into the full stature of Christ? Roger.

Tommy's Talking Points



Our wonderful warm summer finally ended on Sunday 21^{st} October, when we had a beautiful afternoon walk around and around Dean and Bush Valleys in the sunshine, the leaves on the trees tinted with a hint of Autumn. The following day, we did our next bit of the Kent Coastal Walk – now *the Viking Trail*. It was decidedly chilly, but still an extremely bright morning. We met Master's friend on the train at Strood and travelled to Birchington. From there, we walked back to Minnis Bay and turned right on the promenade towards Margate. The tide was high and there was a strong onshore wind. This meant waves breaking on the sea wall and spray spattering on the promenade and sometimes on us. It was hard work for them walking against the

wind, but exhilarating for me. So I bounded ahead and around. There were plenty of people, dogs and children about as it was half term. We made our way by all Master's old holiday haunts – Minnis Bay, Westgate, Westbrook and Cliftonville. We saw the gardens where he once hid so as not to have to come home from holiday. There was the old Sea-Bathing Hospital, where they used to treat consumptives by letting them lie out in their beds to breathe what was considered to be the health-giving sea air and where Master had a piece of his radius grafted onto his scaphoid bone to repair the damage caused by falling off a ladder while painting Newington Church. We stopped at the T S Elliott public conveniences in Margate where he wrote part of *the Wasteland* – in the adjacent shelter, rather than the actual facilities, we think.

The other side of Margate Harbour, we walked out on the stone jetty, the pier. Masters says that there used to be a little steam train that ran along it and he wanted to see if there was any trace. As it stopped running in about 1960, he was amazingly optimistic. There is one rail, running most of the length of the jetty, but, if it is what he was looking for, what happened to the other one? On the other hand, if it wasn't put there for the train, what was it put there for? The steam train on the stone jetty was replaced by a diesel which ran along the other Margate "pier", which some people say should never have been called a pier, which was badly damaged in a storm like Herne Bay pier and which has now entirely disappeared. Some of you may remember the pleasure steamers, *the Royal Daffodil* and the *Golden Sovereign*, tying up there, having brought trippers from London, Gravesend, the Medway Towns and Southend, and, indeed sailing onto to Ramsgate and no passport trips to France, long before we joined the EU. You can just about make out the Turner Gallery in the background. This is a bit disappointing architecturally and is actually best seen from where this picture was taken.

On we went, the sea still splashing up on the promenade. I looked as if I had been in it. The *Winter Gardens* is not what Master says it was, but it is still open. The *Lido* is a dirty ruin, sad for those who remember it in its heyday – theatre, swimming pool, seaside organ, cafeterias, etc.. Past Walpole Bay and Palm Bay, we came eventually to Kingsgate and the *Captain Digby*. They perused the menu over a pint in the pub garden, but dogs weren't allowed in and it was too cold to eat outside. So we set off again for Broadstairs, passing the North Foreland on the cliff top and getting back onto the promenade just before we came to Viking Bay, plenty of off lead time. Broadstairs was packed and it seemed that every other house was a public one. Much was made of the literary connection with Charles Dickens and one place paid homage to John Buchan's Thirty Nine Steps which are also at Broadstairs. We quite soon found somewhere still serving which welcomed dogs. They supplied me with water and them with beer and food, but, sadly, one course only – no starter or dessert. They lingered over their beer and then we went to find the station. There was so much hanging about that they ought to have had another pint in the nice warm pub, but we eventually made it after long waits on the platforms at Broadstairs, Margate and Chatham and on the train at Faversham. I was made a lot of fuss of by other passengers. So it was worth it from my point of view. Another great day out. Tommy.

Psalm 8. Domine, Dominus noster

OLORD our Governor, how excellent is thy Name in all the world : thou that hast set thy glory above the heavens! 2. Out of the mouth of very babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength, because of thine enemies : that thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger. 3. For I will consider thy heavens, even the works of thy fingers : the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained. 4. What is man, that thou art mindful of him : and the son of man, that thou visitest him? 5. Thou madest him lower than the angels : to crown him with glory and worship. 6. Thou makest him to have dominion of the works of thy hands : and thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet; 7. All sheep and oxen : yea, and the beasts of the field; 8. The fowls of the air, and the fishes of the sea : and whatsoever walketh through the paths of the seas. 9. O Lord our Governor : how excellent is thy Name in all the world!

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.